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This Week in Wabash



Hello, Wabash,

Happy Wednesday. As always, I hope your week has gotten off to a great start. Today is the last day of work for me before my four-day weekend starts, so I'm pretty excited. Thanksgiving is always my favorite holiday and I can already hear the delicious food calling my name.

Last week, our publisher Kelly Miller asked all the staff members of our newspaper group to send her a short statement about what we were thankful for. The ad which resulted ran in Tuesday's Marion Chronicle-Tribune. My answer was that I was grateful to live in a country with the First Amendment. I thought for this week's newsletter I might expand on that answer a bit.



From Our Entire Staff

Brett Stover, Editor
Huntington Herald-Press
"I'm thankful for my family and friends, and for the warm welcome shown to me by Huntington County."

Rebecca Barr, Consolidated Services CING
"I am thankful that God has blessed me with another day every morning that I wake. I thank him for my life, health, family and friends."

Kelly Miller, Publisher CING
"I am thankful to be 'back home again in Indiana.' It has been a rough year moving from North Dakota, but we made it. I am so thankful to be three hours from my parents! I am also always thankful for my wonderful husband and my dog, Jose."

Rob Burgess, Editor
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor
"I am thankful to live in a country with the First Amendment."

Tyson Rumble, Sales Executive Marion
"I am thankful to be on this team and be a part of supporting this community through the challenges of 2021. I am blessed to have wonderful co-workers and a loving family that keep my spirits high. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone."

Andrew Maciejewski, Executive Editor, CING
"I'm thankful for God, first and foremost, and everyone who chooses to serve their community or put smiles on people's faces. Also, tipsters, blonde roast coffee and people who are willing to speak up for what is right no matter the consequences."

Rod Smelser, Production Manager CING
"Thankful for having decent enough health to still be around these days, and especially thankful for my lovely wife and family and the best grandson anyone could ask for."

Michael Clouser, Sales Executive Frankfort
"I am thankful that I can wake up and walk in a house that is warm, food in my fridge and go to a career that I love. Sounds corny but I am thankful for all the little things, they add up to be something big."

Jaylan Miller, Managing Editor, Marion
"I am thankful for my Marion community! I am especially thankful for those who let me share their stories, those who encourage me to do better, and my friends at Folkies who sing and dance with me on Wednesday nights!"

Sandy Hoover, Sales Executive, Wabash, Peru
"I am thankful for the many blessings that I receive."

CING
COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK

In case you don't remember, the text of the First Amendment reads as follows:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

There's a lot packed into a few words there, but let me tell you what it does not say: Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from private repercussions or

consequences.

For example, private businesses can ask you to leave if they don't like your speech.

Conversely, your customers can choose not to buy your products if they don't like your speech.

What it does say is that the government can't make any laws to stop your speech. This is an important distinction which I think gets lost in our current debates over the idea of free speech.

I am grateful to live in a country with this protection enshrined in its founding document because in so many other places around the world this is not the case.

I never take this for granted and neither should you.

Anyway, I hope you have a great holiday weekend. I'll be back next week with you to exercise my freedom of speech once again.

Best,
Rob



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Wabash Plain Dealer PO Box 379, Wabash, IN 46992-0379